



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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CARDAMINE OLIGOSPERMA* VAR *KAMTSCHATICA **FEW-SEEDED BITTERCRESS**

Few-seeded Bittercress is a taprooted annual or biennial with 1-few unbranched stems, up to 10 cm tall, that arise from a rosette of basal leaves. The basal leaves are pinnately divided with 2-4 pairs of shallowly lobed, egg-shaped leaflets, while those of the stem are alternate with narrowly lance-shaped leaflets. The foliage is glabrous or sparsely covered with short, straight hairs. The stalked flowers are borne in a compact inflorescence, 1-2 cm long, that branches at the base. Each flower has 4 white petals, 2-4 mm long, 4 shorter sepals, and 4 long and 2 short stamens. The narrow, linear siliques are 15-25 mm long, and borne on spreading to erect stalks that are 5-15 mm long. Fruiting in August.

CARDAMINE OLIGOSPERMA VAR *OLIGOSPERMA* has an inflorescence at least 3 cm long, and the leaflets of the stem leaves are more egg-shaped than those of *C. OLIGOSPERMA* VAR *KAMTSCHATICA*. Species of *DESCURAINIA* also have pinnately compound leaves and linear siliques, but their foliage has branched hairs.